

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25-46 are pending.

Claims 25-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brant et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/0159082.

It appears that the effective filing date of the Brant reference is February 15, 2002.

The instant application claims priority from PCT Application No. PCT/US02/14141 under 35 U.S.C. Section 120, the cover page of which is submitted herewith as Appendix A.

The PCT application in turn claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 60/287,946 (filed May 1, 2001) and 60/312,471 (filed August 15, 2001). Copies of the provisional applications are submitted herewith as Appendix B and Appendix C.

The subject matter of the pending claims is disclosed in the provisional applications. For example, see sections I and II in U.S. Provisional Appl. No. 60/287,946, and in the Abstract and Introduction Sections of U.S. Provisional Appl. No. 60/312,471.

For the reasons set forth above, the Brant reference is not a proper Section 102(e) reference. The rejection of the claims is therefore believed to be moot.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/693,077

PATENT

Amdt. dated March 17, 2006

Reply to Office Action of November 21, 2005

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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